



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 17 July 2019
(OR. en)

10699/19
ADD 1
LIMITE
PV CONS 39
ENV 661
CLIMA 197

DRAFT MINUTES
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Environment)
26 June 2019

CONTENTS

Page

Non-legislative activities

5.	Environmental Implementation Review (EIR).....	3
----	--	---

Any other business

6.	a)	Clean Planet for all: Strategic long-term vision for a climate neutral economy	3
	b)	Communication on the draft integrated national energy and climate plans	3
	d)	Conference on carbon pricing and aviation taxes (The Hague, 20 - 21 June 2019)	3
	e)	Workshop on the "Future Environment Action Programme" (Hainburg, Austria, 11 - 12 June 2019).....	3
	f)	Possible European measures to support clean mobility and in particular, electromobility	4
	g)	Reports on main recent international meetings	4
	i)	Triple Conference of the Parties to the Basel (COP 14), Rotterdam (COP 9) and Stockholm (COP 9) Conventions (Geneva, 29 April - 10 May 2019)	
	ii)	Fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) (Nairobi, 11 - 15 March 2019)	
	h)	G7 Environment Ministers' meeting (Metz, France, 5 - 6 May 2019).....	4
	j)	Work programme of the incoming Presidency	4

ANNEX - Statements for the Council minutes	5
--	---

Non-legislative activities

5. **Environmental Implementation Review (EIR)** 9892/19
Exchange of views 8302/19 + ADD 1

The Council held an exchange of views on the findings of the Commission Communication on the Environmental Implementation Review (EIR) on the basis of questions prepared by the Presidency as set out in doc. 9892/19. The outcome of this exchange of views feeds into the Commission's preparation of the 2021 cycle of the EIR.

Any other business

6. a) **Clean Planet for all: Strategic long-term vision for a climate neutral economy** 15011/18
Information from the Presidency

The Council took note of the information provided by the Presidency, as well as the interventions by other delegations and the Commission.

- b) **Communication on the draft integrated national energy and climate plans** 10251/19
Presentation by the Commission

The Council took note of the information provided by the Commission.

- d) **Conference on carbon pricing and aviation taxes (The Hague, 20 - 21 June 2019)** 10375/19
Information from the Netherlands delegation

The Council took note of the information provided by the Netherlands delegation as well as the intervention by other delegations and the Commission.

- e) **Workshop on the "Future Environment Action Programme" (Hainburg, Austria, 11 - 12 June 2019)** 10409/19
Information from the Austrian delegation

The Council took note of the information provided by the Austrian delegation as well as the intervention by other delegations and the Commission.

- f) **Possible European measures to support clean mobility and in particular, electromobility** 10377/19
Information from the Bulgarian delegation

The Council took note of the information provided by the Bulgarian delegation, as well as the interventions by other delegations and the Commission.

g) **Reports on main recent international meetings**

- i) **Triple Conference of the Parties to the Basel (COP 14), Rotterdam (COP 9) and Stockholm (COP 9) Conventions (Geneva, 29 April - 10 May 2019)** 10477/19

- ii) **Fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) (Nairobi, 11 - 15 March 2019)** 10524/19

Information from the Presidency and the Commission

The Council took note of the information provided by the Presidency and the Commission as well as the intervention by other delegations.

- h) **G7 Environment Ministers' meeting (Metz, France, 5 - 6 May 2019)** 10512/19
Information from the French delegation

The Council took note of the information provided by the French delegation and the Commission.

- j) **Work programme of the incoming Presidency**
Information from the Finnish delegation

The Council took note of the information provided by the Finnish delegation as incoming Presidency.

Statements to the non-legislative "A" items set out in 10457/1/19 REV 1**Ad "A" item 3: **Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2019/124 as regards certain fishing opportunities*****Adoption***STATEMENT BY DENMARK
concerning the Commission proposal on sprat**

"Given the importance of the sprat fishery for Denmark, the Danish delegation has at an early stage following the publication of the ICES advice for sprat, and ahead of the adoption of the Commission proposal, consulted with the Commission on possible ways forward, in order to handle that ICES now gives a joint MSY advice for Skagerrak/Kattegat and the North Sea, to ensure a level playing field between the two sea basins. The ICES advice means a reduction of the fishing opportunities for sprat in the fishing year 2019/2020. While sprat in the North Sea is an EU-stock, sprat in Skagerrak/Kattegat is shared with Norway.

Despite new scientific information for two TAC-areas, the Commission in its proposal, unfortunately, decided to solely propose fishing opportunities for the North Sea whereby the fishermen in the North Sea take the full reduction of an advice covering two areas, while maintaining the fishing opportunities set for Skagerrak/Kattegat for the calendar year of 2019 stable. Such an approach goes against ensuring a level playing field for the fishermen in the two sea basins. Furthermore, the approach of the Commission deeply worries us, given its potential horizontal implications, as rather than defending the interests of EU fishermen, the Commission in this case has decided to let EU fishermen take the full reduction, while allowing third countries to maintain the level of their fishing opportunities. While we strongly support that fishing opportunities should be set in line with the best available scientific advice, the Commission approach for implementing the scientific advice is not reasonable. However, the Presidency compromise allows for flexibility from Skagerrak/Kattegat to the North Sea. Therefore, given the circumstances including the need for a swift solution Denmark agrees to the Presidency compromise as a short term solution.

Denmark expects that the Commission will cooperate to revise the fishing opportunities for both Skagerrak/Kattegat and the North Sea for 1st half of 2020, once EU and Norway have agreed on a sharing for the stock between the two sea basins."

**STATEMENT BY DENMARK, GERMANY AND SWEDEN
concerning flexibility from 3a to the North Sea on sprat**

"Denmark, Germany and Sweden welcome that agreement has been found to introduce full flexibility for sprat from 3a to the North Sea for Member States with quota on both sides. This full flexibility should only be included for the fishing year July 2019 to June 2020.

It has not yet been possible to reach agreement between EU/NO on a future sharing arrangement between 3a and 4, given the short time period between the advice release (12 April) and the start of the fishery (1 July).

On this basis it is necessary for the fishing year July 2019 to June 2020 to find an *ad hoc* agreement in line with the objectives of the CFP and ensuring a level playing field between the two sea basins.

As part of this *ad hoc* solution, flexibility is essential in ensuring that fishing opportunities are not lost.

Denmark, Germany and Sweden encourage the Commission to – as soon as possible – arrange with Norway a working group to develop and recommend methods for the sharing of sprat between Skagerrak/Kattegat and the North Sea, preferably ahead of the consultations in the autumn. When such an agreement has been reached with Norway this autumn, any continued need for flexibility will be presented to Member States concerned."
